

FEATURES

"Where the waters come together..." is a translation of the word Ahjumawi, which is also the self describing word used by the band of Pit River Native Americans who inhabit the area. The waters which come together are Big Lake, Tule River, Ja She Creek, Lava Creek and Fall River. Together they form one of the largest systems of fresh water springs in the world. The park covers part of the Ahjumawi people's ancestral homeland and remains an integral part of their culture. Features include bedrock mortars, village and ceremonial sites and prehistoric fish traps still used today.

Preserved within the park are recent lava flows broken by great faults and deep cracks, lava tubes and craters. Visitors may be inspired by magnificent vistas of Mt. Shasta, Mt. Lassen and other nearby peaks. Freshwater springs flowing from the lava are prominent along the shoreline. Oak, pine and juniper forests and slopes of rabbit brush and sagebrush are part of the great variety of vegetation in the area. Many varieties of birds including bald eagles, ospreys and great blue herons nest or travel through the park. Herds of mule deer forage through much of the park. Many small mammals such as coyotes, marmots and porcupines are prevalent all year.

SAFETY

Ahjumawi is very much a wilderness area and most of the park is extremely rugged lava rock. Visitors should prepare adequately for their visit. Travel off the trails requires proper preparation and equipment. Wear sturdy shoes for travel on the lava flows. Dress for extreme heat in the summer and cold in the winter. Be sure someone knows where you are going and when you expect to return.

Rattlesnakes are present and many are very dark in color, as dark as the lava. Ticks are abundant in the spring and early summer. Check for them frequently. Mosquitos are voracious; plan to deal with them.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Ahjumawi Lava Springs State Park is the north-eastern most unit of the California State Park system. Ahjumawi is a place of exceptional, even primeval, beauty. Brilliant aqua bays and tree studded islets only a few yards long dot the shoreline of Horr Pond and Ja She Creek. Of the park's 6000 acres, over two thirds of the area is covered by recent lava flows including vast areas of jagged black basalt. It is a place of natural wonder only minimally marked by man.

Primitive camping is available at nine Environmental Campsites. There are three each located near Ja She Creek, at Crystal Springs and on the north shore of Horr Pond. Pit toilets are located nearby and water is available from the many springs but must be purified. A camping fee is charged. Camp ONLY in the designated sites.

Domestic pets can have a difficult time adjusting to the wild nature of the park. Please consider carefully before bringing your pet to the park. (See Park Rules)

ACCESS

At this time Ahjumawi Lava Springs State Park can only be reached by boat. There are no public roads to it and private motor vehicles are prohibited within. Visitors can launch into Big Lake at a PG&E public boat launch known as "Rat Farm". It is reached from McArthur by turning north off Highway 299 cn to Main St., continuing past the Intermountain Fairgrounds, crossing over a canal and proceeding 3 miles north on a graded dirt road.

For information contact:

McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park 29898 Highway 89 Burney, CA 96013 530.335.2777

